

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Pennell, MPH, CHES  
Health Education Specialist II  
(909) 466-7387 (PETS)  
San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program  
606 E. Mill St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0003

**February 7, 2005**

PHD # 05-09

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 2005****"Protecting Pets & Communities"**

Every year the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control (SBCACC) Program receives approximately 38,000 phone calls, the majority of which are about dogs running loose. The SBCACC Program would like to take a moment to remind everyone that the law requires all animals to be restrained whenever they are on public property or unenclosed private property. This is for the safety of you, your pet, and your community. When your dog is on a leash, he cannot get lost, hit by a car, stolen, attack other animals (including livestock), or hurt someone else. So protect your dog by keeping him on a leash or confined safely at home. Your pet will be safer and you will not have to worry about possible monetary repercussions that may occur if your pet were to cause harm to someone or something.

In addition, make sure that your pet wears identification. ID tags come in all different sizes, shapes, and colors. Styles range from plastic to 14-carat gold. There are also more permanent ways to ID your pet, such as microchips or tattoos (please call your veterinarian for more details).

If you have a dog that is over four months of age then the law says that you must provide him/her with a license, which is yet another form of identification. For dogs that reside in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County as well as the cities of Big Bear Lake, Rancho Cucamonga, and Yucaipa, the fee for a dog license is \$15.00 if your pet is spayed/neutered. If your pet is not altered, the fee is \$60.00. For more information about dog licensing please call the SBCACC Program.

The most important thing, of course, is to make sure that your pet is safe! So show your dog and your community how much you care by being a responsible pet owner –

**TAG YOUR PETS and KEEP THEM CONFINED!**

If you have questions or need more information, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Program toll free at 1 (800) 472-5609 or visit

[www.sbcounty.gov/acc](http://www.sbcounty.gov/acc). Thank you.

###